APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/887,602	06/22/2001	Frederic Bauchot	FR920000050US1	7284

7590   11/27/2006

IBM CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPT. IQOA/BLDG. 040-3
1701 NORTTH STREET
ENDICOTT,, NY 13760

EXAMINER
PAULA, CESAR B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2178	

DATE MAILED: 11/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

MAILED

Application Number: 09/887,602
Filing Date: June 22, 2001
Appellant(s): BAUCHOT, FREDERIC

NOV 27 2006

Technology Center 2100

John R. Pivnichny
<u>For Appellant</u>

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed on 9/1/2006 appealing from the Office action mailed on 2/16/2006.

(1)   Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2)   Related Appeals and Interferences

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences which will directly affect or

be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the

brief.   .

(3)   Status of Claims

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4)   Status of Amendments After Final

There were no amendments after final, only a request for reconsideration, which was

entered.

(5)   Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of the claimed invention in the brief is correct.

(6)   Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The grounds of rejection contained in the brief are correct.

(7)   Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8)   Evidence Relied Upon

USPat.# 5,463,724, Anderson (10/31/1995).

Barnes, "10 Minute Guide to Windows 3.1", Alpha, 1992, pp.60-64

"Getting Results with Microsoft Office 97", Microsoft Press, 1997, pp.169-181.

(9)   ***Grounds of Rejection***

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2.   Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et

al, hereinafter Anderson (Pat.# 5,463,724, 10/31/1995), in view of Barnes, "10 Minute Guide to

Windows 3.1", Alpha, 1992, pp.60-64, and further in view of "Getting Results with Microsoft

Office 97", hereinafter Office, Microsoft Press, 1997, pp.169-181.

Regarding independent claim 1, Anderson discloses the grouping of cells in a page of a

multidimensional spreadsheet—*defining a set ranges of cells*—for changing the information or

content of the different groupings of cells simultaneously. Information is placed in one group of

cells, and then this information is automatically percolated or replicated to the other group of

cells in the page. The cells have content, such as "Loan amount, %", etc. The groups of cells

have different addresses relative to the first cell (A1) of the respective page where the cell groups

are found—*at least two of said ranges having different addresses relative to the top leftmost cell*

A1 of the respective page on which each of said ranges are located (col.10, lines 58-col.11, line

30, and col.7, lines 62-col.8, line 10, fig. 4G-4J). Therefore, by changing the content in one cell

of the group the content of the whole group is also changed.

Moreover, Anderson discloses the automatic percolating or replicating of information

changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the same block of cells in other

locations—*automatically performing a self-replication operation* (col.11, lines 4-30, fig. 4H-J).

In other words, once the block of cells have been modified, this modification is passed to every

cell in the other group—*determining the set of ranges to which the changed range of cells*

belongs to, and identifying the ranges or pages *of cells belonging to said set* or grouping

Moreover, Anderson fails to explicitly disclose: *automatically copying the changed range*

of cells onto a buffer, automatically determining the set of ranges to which the changed range of

cells belongs to, automatically identifying the ranges or pages of cells belonging to said set or

grouping, and automatically pasting the content of the buffer in each of the identified range of

cells belonging to said set. However, Barnes teaches the copying of information into a

clipboard--buffer. This information is then pasted from the clipboard into a specified location

(page 60, lines 14-20). Office discloses automatically updating or pasting spreadsheet cells to a

destination Word document, whenever figures within an originating spreadsheet, such as those in

an Excel spreadsheet, change (page 174). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary

skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Anderson, Barnes, and Office, to

automatically copy, determining, identifying, and pasting the block of cells into the clipboard or

RAM, because Barnes teaches above the copying of information from an original location to a

second location without disturbing the original information, which provides the benefit of saving

the time, and speeding the process needed to manually input the same information several times.

Regarding claim 2, which depends on claim 1, Anderson discloses creating groups of spreadsheet pages, and including the same page in more than one group—*adding a new range of cells to said ranges of cells* (col.9, lines 60-67, col. 10, lines 1-31).

In addition, Anderson discloses the entering of data in a spreadsheet page cell located in one group, and ending the entry with a "CTRL-Enter" command—*selecting a new range of cells--*. The entry of the command causes the propagation of entered data to other group of pages—*creating a link between the new range of cells with at least one range of cells with at least one range of cells belonging to said set of ranges of cells* (col. 10, lines 18-31).

Regarding claim 3, which depends on claim 1, Anderson discloses the automatic percolating or replicating of changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the same block of cells in other pages—*performing a persistent* (not temporary) *copy operation* (col.10, lines 16-31). In other words, once the block of cells have been modified, this modification is passed to every page in the group—*selecting a first range of cells.*

In addition, Anderson discloses the entering of data in a spreadsheet page cell located in one group, and ending the entry with a "CTRL-Enter" command. The entry of the command causes the propagation of entered data to other group of pages—*creating a link between each other range of cells and the first range of cells* (col. 10, lines 18-31).

Furthermore, Anderson fails to explicitly disclose: *copying onto a buffer the selected first range of cells, and persistent pasting the content onto each other selected range of cells.* However, Barnes teaches the copying of information into a clipboard--*buffer.* This information is

then pasted from the clipboard into a specified location (page 60, lines 14-20). It would have

been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine

Anderson, and Barnes and copy the block of cells into the clipboard, because Barnes teaches

above the copying of information from an original location to a second location without

disturbing the original information, which provides the benefit of saving the time needed to

manually inputting the same information several times.

Regarding claim 4, which depends on claim 3, Anderson discloses the automatic

percolating or replicating of changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the

same block of cells in other pages—*invoking a persistent* (not temporary) *copy and paste*

command operation (col.10, lines 16-31). In other words, once the block of cells have been

modified, this modification is copied and pasted to every page in the group.

Regarding claim 5, which depends on claim 1, Anderson discloses the storing in a

spreadsheet(s) of marks for identifying a spreadsheet page(s), such as A1 to C4—*table name--* of

page A, which are used for addressing block of cells in a spreadsheet page—*creating a link in*

said table between the name of the set and said means for identifying each range of cells (col.10,

lines 16-31, and fig.2C).

Regarding claim 6, which depends on claim 1, Anderson discloses the annotation of

spreadsheet groups—*associating the ranges of cells with set dependent display attributes,* such

as annotations (col.10, lines 1-15).

Regarding claim 7, which depends on claim 5, Anderson discloses the automatic

percolating or replicating of changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the

same block of cells in other pages. A user inputs selects, and inputs data into a cell, such as

"Large Cëaser Food cost" (fig.4G, B4)—*set dependent value*, which depends on information in

this page, in a spreadsheet page. Once data entry is completed, the data is copied a pasted to

other pages which were grouped with the entry page in this group—*associating a first variable*

with said set of ranges of cells or pages in the group — (col.10, lines 1-31).

Furthermore, Anderson teaches the display of notebook pages according with certain

settable display properties—*displaying the ranges with display attributes according to the value*

of said first variable (col.14, lines 1-67)

Regarding claim 8, which depends on claim 4, Anderson discloses using an inspector for

determining the various properties of a page or block of cells—*determining current attributes of*

said range of cells (col.13, line 45-col.14, line67).

Moreover, Anderson teaches the setting, and changing of page, and block of cells

properties changing the display format of the page or block of cells, which are stored in the page

or table—*storing in said table said current attributes and associating in said table the range of*

cells with current attributes (col.13, line 45-col.14, line67, fig.8A).

Regarding claim 9, which depends on claim 7, Anderson discloses the automatic

percolating or replicating of changes made in one block of cells in one page to a version of the

same block of cells in other pages. A user inputs selects, and inputs data into a cell, such as

"Tossed Food cost" (fig.4G, B4)—*second variable with each range of cells and setting said*

second variable to a value associated with said current attributes of the pages they are displayed

on, in a spreadsheet page — (col.10, lines 1-31).

Regarding claim 10, which depends on claim 7, Anderson discloses the cutting or

deleting of blocks of cells, and displaying the edited spreadsheet —*removing a range of cells,*

retrieving the current attributes, and displaying said current display attributes— (col.10, lines

58-col.11, line20, fig.4G-I).

Regarding claim 11, which depends on claim 5, Anderson discloses the storing in a

spreadsheet(s) of marks for identifying a spreadsheet page(s), such as A1 to C4—*table name*-- of

page A, which are used for addressing block of cells in a spreadsheet page—*creating a link in*

said table between the name of the set and said means for identifying each range of cells (col.10,

lines 16-31, and fig.2C). In other words the identification makes use of the addresses of the cell

blocks.

Claim 12 is directed towards a software method equivalent to the steps of claim 1, and

therefore is similarly rejected.

(10)   Response to Argument

Regarding claim 1, the Appellant remarks that the prior art does not teach or suggest the

definition of a set of ranges of cells, which have two different relative addresses (page

7,parag.3). The Examiner disagrees, because Anderson teaches grouping at least two sets of

cells, which have the same size, in a page of a multidimensional spreadsheet (col. 10, lines 16-

col.11, line 30, fig.4G-J). The sets or groups of cells, grouped or defined, have different relative

locations in the spreadsheet with respect to the first cell of the spreadsheet, such as being on

different locations of the same page.

        Further, The Appellant notes that the prior art does not teach or suggest the determination

of set of ranges of cells or identification ranges of cells which belong to the set (page 7,parag.3).

The Examiner disagrees, Office shows automatic linking and pasting of spreadsheet information,

so that whenever data change in one spreadsheet that same data is pasted onto a different

spreadsheet at a separate location (page 174). In other words, the system detects whenever the

data in the spreadsheet cells changes, and then determines which cells the changes belong to. The

changes are then percolated or pasted onto the cells that are linked to the edited cells. Therefore,

it would have been obvious at least in light of the Office reference and barnes' copying and

pasting of data through a clipboard—buffer--, because of all the reasons found in Barnes,

including because Barnes teaches above the copying of information from an original location to a

second location without disturbing the original information, which provides the benefit of saving

the time, and speeding the process needed to manually input the same information several times.

        Claims 2-12 are rejected at least based on the rationale above in regards to claim 1.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related

Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

Conclusion

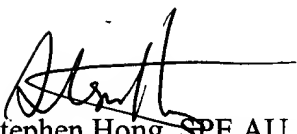For all of the reasons stated above the Examiner believes that the rejections should be

sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

CESAR PAULA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Cesar B. Paula
November 21, 2006

Stephen Hong, SPE AU 2178
SH(conf.)

Heather Herndon, SPE AU 2176
HH(conf.)